



[How does a CNA transfer from Iowa to another state or from another state to Iowa?](#)

This is a process called **reciprocity**.

- If the CNA is transferring from Iowa to another state, the CNA must first contact the registry **of the state to which they are moving**.
- Staff from the out-of-state registry will send the CNA their application to complete.
- When the CNA has completed the appropriate section, the form should be **faxed or mailed** to Iowa Direct Care Worker Registry staff so they may complete the appropriate section. (Mail: Iowa Department of Inspections & Appeals, c/o Direct Care Worker Registry, 321 East 12th Street – 3rd Floor, Des Moines IA 50319-0083, OR fax: 515.281.6259). **DO NOT email the form, any personally-identifiable information (birthdate, Social Security number), or copies of your Social Security card or driver's license to Registry staff.**
- The Iowa Direct Care Worker Registry will then forward the completed form by U.S. mail to the other state for processing.

When transferring out of Iowa, CNAs:

- Must have completed a 75-hour course; and
- Must have successfully passed the two Iowa competency tests (written and skills) and be showing as "Active" on the Iowa registry. (If the CNA challenged the tests in Iowa without completing a 75-hour course, the other state will require the CNA to take and pass its nurse aide training course and/or its state competency tests before placing them on its registry.)

Some helpful information about other state processes:

- CNAs will need to be active on the Iowa DCW Registry in order to test in **Missouri** and **Kansas**.
- **Wisconsin** requires CNAs to have 2,088 hours of long-term care CNA employment in Iowa during the previous 24 months in order to **not** retake its course and tests.
- **Illinois, Nebraska, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota** are straight transfers.
- **North Carolina** requires CNAs to take its course and tests to be placed on the North Carolina registry.

[DCW Registry](#)

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